

REMARKS

In the present application, claims 1-25 are pending. Claims 1-12 were rejected. Claims 13-25 were allowed. Claims 17-18 are cancelled herein. Claims 1-16 and 19-25 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

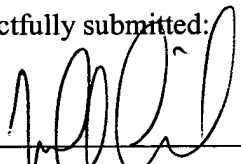
Amendment

A fully responsive reply to the Office Action of March 20, 2006 was filed by the Applicants on May 5, 2006. Applicants herein reaffirm the arguments set forth in the aforementioned reply. In addition, Applicants herein cancel claims 17 and 18 so as to render moot the grounds for rejection asserted with regards to the currently pending provisional double patenting rejection of claims 14 and 17 in U.S. Application No. 10/607,406.

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

It is submitted that the claims herein patentably define over the art relied on by the Examiner and early allowance of same is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted:



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11 May 06

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. BOX 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

<u>5-11-06</u>	<u>Ann Okrentowich</u>
Date	Name of Person Making Deposit